

Name: Jeff Fairfax

Lay/Rostered: Lay

Nominated for: Synod Council

Category if Applicable: Lay or Rostered North Colorado Conference

Occupation: Outdoor Ministry

Conference: Northern Colorado

Home Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO

Member how long: 1 Year

List three current or past congregational or synodical service activities. List the activity and dates started and ended:

Activity 1:

Synod Council - Northern Colorado, 2018-present

Activity 2:

Messiah Mountain Advisory Board and Property Committee, 2018-present

Activity 3:

Program Director - Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, 2016-present

Briefly describe your sense of God's call into mission and service in the Synod through this office:

2 Corinthians 5:7 reads, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." For me, this verse takes on new meaning in the context of a nomination for Synod Council. Synod Council members are called to rely on their faith and direction from God while they serve as the legislative authority between Synod Assembly meetings. But they are also called to use their sight, in terms of visional, informed leadership, to make decisions as the Synod board of directors. As a person of faith by nature and a non-profit professional by trade, I feel called to use my spiritual gifts and experiences to walk alongside and guide the Rocky Mountain Synod, with both faith and sight. Non-profit organizations, including synodical and congregational ministries of the ELCA, need to be supported with sound business practices to ensure their future for years to come. I feel called to lead as a member of Synod Council to help the Synod focus on spiritual, emotional, relational, and financial health and responsibility. These four essentials are the core of a sustainable faith-based organization. The Rocky Mountain Synod and its many diverse congregations rely on guidance and leadership from Synod Council and the Office of the Bishop. We must use our sight, alongside our faith, to connect and support these communities, in joy and in struggles. When we can truly see and listen to the communities we are a part of, then we can make informed choices.

Describe your skills and experiences that would be an asset to this office:

My work the last four years on Synod Council has been really fulfilling. From the acquisition of Messiah Mtn. to the campaign, to our work being a right sized ministry; each experience has informed my natural abilities in creative problem solving, logistical and program planning, and faith formation. I enjoy big picture thinking and working collaboratively with others to brainstorm solutions that benefit everyone involved. I am constantly looking three steps ahead at what is or could be possible in any situation. In my current position, I enjoy meeting and connecting others, including pastors, lay volunteers, faith formation leaders, and community members, to build a strong, yet inclusive network based on trusted relationships. It is my belief that these skills will continue to guide me as I continue to serve on Synod Council.



Rocky Mountain Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.